CD-87

Form No. 1588 (Revised)
MEMORANDUM REPORT
(7-1-50)

UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ORIGIN: Field | OFFICE: New Orleans, La. | FILE NO. CO-2-34,030

TYPE OF CASE	STATUS	TITLE OR CAPTION
Protective Research	Continued	Lee Harvey Oswald Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE AT: New Orleans, Louisiana	PERIOD COVERED: December 1-5, 1963	
INVESTIGATION MADE BY: SA Anthony E. Gerrets and SA Roger D. Counts		

DETAILS

SYNOPSIS

Extensive investigation conducted thus far has failed to establish that the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" had offices at 544 Camp Street, New Orleans. It has likewise been impossible to find anyone who recalls ever seeing Lee Harvey Oswald at this address.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to report dated 12-3-63, submitted by SA A. G. Vial and covering investigation conducted during the period November 22, 1963, through December 1, 1963, by SA's A. G. Vial, Anthony E. Gerrets, and Roger D. Counts, as well as SAIC John W. Rice.

On Pages 14 and 15 of the above-mentioned report, comment was made on the address "544 Camp Street, New Orleans, La.", which appeared on some of the literature in the possession of Lee Harvey Oswald when he was arrested by members of the New Orleans Police Department on 8-9-63 for fighting with several Cubans. Mention of the address "544 Camp Street" is also made on Page 2 of my report of 12-4-63, covering investigation conducted by SAIC John W. Rice and myself during the period November 23-27, 1963.

On 12-1-63, reporting agent interviewed Mr. Arnesto N. Rodriguez, Sr., 1205 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans - Telephone: 523-3720.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. is 72 years of age, having been born in Havana, Cuba on 8-15-91. Mr. Rodriguez stated that he attended the Chenet Institute (no longer existent) at New Orleans, completing a high school course and specializing in English. This was about 1907. He said he subsequently attended the Soule Business College, New Orleans, graduating therefrom in September, 1909, having completed a 2-year commercial course. He said he returned to Cuba and subsequently established himself in the wholesale electrical business. He said he continued in the electrical business in Havana until

DISTRIBUTION	COPIES	REPORT MADE BY	DATE
Chief	Orig. & 2 cc's	[signature]	12-9-63
New Orleans	2 cc's	SPECIAL AGENT: Anthony E. Gerrets	
Dallas	2 cc's	APPROVED: [signature] 517	DATE: 12-9-63
		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: John W. Rice	

(CONTINUE ON PLAIN PAPER)

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November, 1960, when Castro confiscated all of his assets, including his home in Havana, his country estate outside of Havana, and all of his other properties, bank account, etc.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that Sergio Arcacha Smith, mentioned on Page 15 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63, was formerly the New Orleans delegate of the Cuban Revolutionary Council, with offices at 544 Camp Street, Room #6, second floor, New Orleans, La. He said that Arcacha was "fired" from his position as New Orleans delegate to the "C R C" by the organization's main office in Miami, because practically all Cubans in New Orleans were against Arcacha and his activities - not because he was cooperating with Castro but because of his dishonesty. According to Mr. Rodriguez, Arcacha was misappropriating the organization's funds. Mr. Rodriguez was of the opinion that Arcacha may possibly be now in Miami but not at all certain as to this.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that Carlos Quiroga, mentioned on Pages 14 and 20 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63 knew Arcacha well and was with him frequently (very close connection) at 544 Camp Street. Mr. Rodriguez did not know what happened to Quiroga's connection with Arcacha after the latter was fired.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Arcacha made frequent visits to the office of Ronny Caire, then located at 705 Cagali Bldg., New Orleans. He said Ronny Caire was the principal organizer of the organization known as "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE", with headquarters at Ronny Caire's office and <u>not</u> at 544 Camp Street. He said that Ronny Caire had prevailed upon Arcacha to join or become a part of the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" and that Arcacha was connected with the "CRUSADE" even after he was fired as New Orleans delegate to the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL", <u>against</u> the opinion of the Cubans.

According to Mr. Rodriguez, Sr., Carlos Quiroga was <u>not</u> an actual member of either the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA" or the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" but participated in meetings held for the purpose of promoting unity among or between the several local anti-Castro organizations such as the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" and the "STUDENTS' REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTORATE."

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" was founded primarily to raise funds with which to buy arms and supplies for use by the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" and that the "CRUSADE" had no actual revolutionary activities of any kind against Castro. He added that the "CRUSADE" was, however, definitely opposed to Castro and would offer cooperation in the overthrow of Castro.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. stated that Ronny Caire had a quantity of pamphlets or circulars printed, which he had distributed by hand, soliciting funds for the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE." According to Mr. Rodriguez, Ronny Caire showed that contributions were to be sent either to 544 Camp Street or to the Post Office box of Sergio Arcacha.

Mr. Rodriguez, Sr. said that he had never seen Oswald in his life and only knew that Oswald had had a fight with Carlos Bringuier and two other Cubans on Canal Street, New Orleans, for which he had been arrested on 8-9-63. He said that he had no idea why

the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" was using the address of 544 Camp Street, New Orleans, former address of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," an anti-Castro organization, whereas the "F P C C" was pro-Castro. Mr. Rodriguez said he did not know of anyone who had belonged to the "F P C C."

Mr. Rodriguez stated that recent newspaper articles had indicated that Oswald's former landlady at New Orleans had stated that Oswald's wife often attended meetings at New Orleans, yet she could only speak Russian, giving rise to the suspicion, in Mr. Rodriguez's mind, that there must have been other Russian speaking persons attending such meetings. (Subsequent to this interview with Mr. Rodriguez, Sr., reporting agent contacted Mrs. Jesse J. Garner, 4911 Magazine St., New Orleans, Oswald's former landlady. She denied having made any statements to the effect that Oswald's wife had frequently attended meetings at New Orleans, explaining that, as far as she knew, Oswald's wife very seldom left their apartment and when she did leave the apartment it was mostly to go to a neighborhood grocery to buy bread, milk, and items of that nature. She said she did not know of anyone who would have looked after Mrs. Oswald's 1½ year old child while she would have been attending such meetings. It was her definite belief that Mrs. Oswald did not attend any such meetings and certainly not on a frequent basis.)

On 12-1-63 interviewed Mr. Manuel Gil, 912 Egania St., New Orleans - Telephone: 944-1171, mentioned on Page 15 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63. Mr. Gil stated that he did not know Oswald personally and had never seen him. He said he had seen photos of Oswald on television and in newspapers since President Kennedy's assassination.

Mr. Gil stated that he has been a member of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" for about the past two years. He said that this organization formerly had offices at 544 Camp St., 2nd floor, for about six months during 1961-62; that Sergio Arcacha Smith had been the New Orleans delegate to the "C R C." He said that Luis Ravel, Arnesto N. Rodriguez, Sr., Arnesto N. Rodriguez, Jr., Sergio Arcacha Smith, and himself were authorized to sign checks in behalf of the "C R C", as was Carlos J. Grimader, CPA.

Mr. Gil stated that Corliss Lamont, publisher of the booklet entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" is a notorious Communist or so he has heard. He also stated that the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" is a well-known Communist front and is directed from Havana.

Manuel Gil stated that he is presently employed as Production Manager by "THE INFORMATION COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS", explaining that he makes tape recordings of information received from refugees from Communist countries, which recordings are broadcast in Latin American countries. He indicated that some of these recordings are also used in some Louisiana schools. "THE INFORMATION COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS, INC." has offices at 620 Gravier Street, New Orleans - Telephone: 523-3614.

On 12-2-63 interviewed Mr. Luis Ravel, 4651 Marigny St., New Orleans - Telephone: 282-7981 (next door). This is actually the telephone number of Charles I. Camp, Mr. Ravel's son-in-law.

Mr. Ravel stated that he was formerly connected with the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," 544 Camp St., New Orleans, and had become the New Orleans delegate to this organization when Sergio Arcacha Smith was "fired" from that position. Mr. Ravel said he had never seen Lee Harvey Oswald personally and could furnish no information about him. Mr. Ravel was shown a copy of the booklet entitled "The Crime Against Cuba" but could furnish no information as to why the rubber stamp impression "F P C C 544 Camp ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA." appeared on this booklet.

Mr. Ravel stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had left behind quite a few propaganda leaflets or pamphlets at 544 Camp Street when they moved from that address, at which time the headquarters for this organization were moved to his home at 4651 Marigny St., New Orleans.

Mr. Ravel stated that Billy Monteleone, of the Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans, had been Chairman and Sponsor of the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE."

Mr. Ravel stated that Sergio Arcacha Smith had a poor reputation for honesty insofar as financial matters were concerned; that Arcacha was suspected of having embezzled some of the funds of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL." He said that Arcacha had allegedly gone to Miami about a year or so ago after he had been fired as delegate at New Orleans by the "C R C."

On 12-2-63 reporting agent received a telephone call from Mr. Arnesto Rodriguez, Sr. He pointed out that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had moved from 544 Camp Street, New Orleans, better than 1½ years ago, whereas it appeared that the activities of the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" here apparently occurred during July and August, 1963.

On 12-2-63 reporting agent also received a telephone call from Mr. Luis Ravel. He stated that he had looked up some records and determined that he took over as delegate for the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL," New Orleans, in February, 1962, and a short time thereafter moved this organization's office from 544 Camp Street to his home. He said that the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" was organized shortly thereafter and lasted only about a month or so. Mr. Ravel stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" is still in existence, the present delegate being Mr. FRANK BARTES, 1608 Mason Smith Ave., Metairie, La. - Telephone: 835-3462, who maintains the organization's office at his home. Mr. Ravel also stated that Carlos Bringuier had also been a member of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" but is now a delegate for the "STUDENTS' REVOLUTIONARY DIRECTORATE" at New Orleans.

During interviews with Luis Ravel he informed me that he had left New Orleans about a year or so ago and gone to Venezuela to take part in the anti-Castro movements in that country; that he overtaxed his strength by working too hard in such activities and suffered what could be classed as a nervous break-down. He is said to be presently under the care of a psychiatrist and to have divorced himself from any anti-Castro activities whatsoever because of his health.

On 12-2-63 called at the office of the Hotel, Motel, and Restaurant Employees' Union, Local #166, located at 544 Camp St., New Orleans, where I interviewed Mr. Robert Davis Ungre, Secretary-Treasurer, and Mrs. Helen McCarthy, Office Secretary, with negative results. They stated that they had never seen Lee Harvey Oswald and knew nothing of the

"FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" ever being at this address.

On 12-2-63 called at the office of Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway & Motor Coach Employees of America, AFL- CIO, Division 1174, with offices on the second floor at 544 Camp St., New Orleans, interviewing Mr. George S. Gay, President. Mr. Gay stated that he has been in New Orleans for about three years; that he does not recall ever seeing Lee Harvey Oswald in the Newman Building located at 544 Camp Street or elsewhere in New Orleans; further, that he had never heard of the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE."

At approximately 2:00 P. M. on 12-2-63 reporting agent telephoned Ronny Caire, Advertising Agency proprietor, with offices at his home located at 616 Dumaine St., New Orleans. Mr. Caire stated that Sergio Arcacha Smith had at one time been a delegate to the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" at New Orleans. He said that funds collected by the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" were deposited in the Whitney National Bank, New Orleans; that the drive to raise funds was not too successful and the crusade gradually "folded up." He said he knew nothing of Lee Harvey Oswald ever having any connections with the address at 544 Camp Street, New Orleans.

On 12-2-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. William A. Monteleone, President, Monteleone Hotel, New Orleans. He stated thathe had been persuaded by a number of his friends to join the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" and that he was chosen as General Chairman of the organization. Mr. Monteleone stated that the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" was organized to raise funds in support of the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL"; that it was soon realized that all of the funds raised by the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" were being used to defray expenses incurred by the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" such as newspaper, television and radio publicity, etc., etc. He stated that interest in the "CRUSADE TO FREE CUBA COMMITTEE" soon faded and the organization "folded up." Mr. Monteleone could furnish no information re Lee Harvey Oswald.

On the afternoon of 12-2-63 contacted Mr. Sam Newman, 1337 Mithra St., New Orleans, owner of the Newman Building located at 544 Camp St., New Orleans, and had him come to the office for interview. During the interview Mr. Newman stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" had occupied office space in Room #6 of the Newman Building from October, 1961, through February, 1962; that the office occupied by them rented for $50.00 per month; that the "C R C" failed to pay their rent monthly and owed him about $250.00 in back rent when they moved. He stated that on 4-3-63 Mr. Carlos J. Grimador, Certified Public Accountant, Audubon Bldg., New Orleans, who acted as Accountant for the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE" on a voluntary basis, drew him a check for $100.00 in part payment of the rent owed by the "C R C" and that he received no further payments from them. Mr. Newman stated that Sergio Arcacha Smith and Carlos Quiroga were connected with the "C R C".

Mr. Newman stated that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" left a lot of literature in their office when they moved from the Newman Building; that when they failed to return for it he had it disposed of by turning it over to the Salvation Army or some such organization. Mr. Newman was shown a photograph of Lee Harvey Oswald but stated that He could not recall ever seeing Oswald anywhere.

Mr. Newman stated that when the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" vacated the Newman Building they failed to surrender the keys to their office, adding that they had had several sets of keys to the office. He said that about ten days or two weeks after the Cubans had moved, he had occasion to visit the Newman Building one day and on that occasion he saw a young white man unlocking the door to the office formerly occupied by the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL." He said he asked this fellow what he was doing and he remarked that he was taking over the office, whereupon Mr. Newman told him that the office had been closed and that the "CUBAN REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL" no longer had office space in the Newman Building and that he would have to leave. He said there were no indications that the fellow had used the office previously. Mr. Newman described this individual as: White; male; 22/24; 5-9½; 185 lbs.; fair complexion; light brown or blond hair; spoke with a Spanish accent.

Mr. Newman stated that when last seen, Sergio Arcacha Smith claimed to be selling life insurance. The name SERGIO ARCACHA is listed in the 1962 New Orleans city directory with address at 4523 Duplessis St. His wife's name is shown as "Mariso L." and his occupation is shown as "Clerk." The above address is located in a housing development known as "Parkchester Apartments."

Mr. Newman stated during this interview that one Jack S. Martin, who lives at the corner or Esplanade Ave. and N. Prieur St., had brought Sergio Arcacha and Carlos Quiroga to him and recommended them to him as prospective tenants. He said that Martin had also brought them to Mayor Victor Schiro, New Orleans, and had helped them to get a charter or permit to operate in New Orleans. He said that on one occasion Quiroga appeared to have a short wave radio transmitter which he was trying to repair.

Mr. Newman stated that he has not rented any offices to new tenants in the Newman Building, 544 Camp Street, since about September, 1962. He could furnish no information as to why the rubber stamp impression "F P C C 544 Camp ST. NEW ORLEANS, LA." appeared in the booklet "The Crime Against Cuba" which had been recovered from Oswald when he was arrested at New Orleans on 8-9-63.

Mr. Newman stated that someone phoned him about three months ago and wanted to rent offices for night meetings and wanted to make an appointment to meet him. He said nothing transpirited as a result of this telephone call. He also stated that about four or five months ago another fellow (white; male; about 37/38; 5-11; medium build; light olive complexion; dark eyes; dark brown hair) came to see him about renting an office which he wanted to use for night classes in Spanish. He said this office rented for $30.00 per month and the subject paid him $30.00 rental and came back the same week-end to see him. He said this fellow later told him he had not recruited sufficient students and that he no longer wanted the space. He told Mr. Newman to keep the $30.00 which he had paid him as rental.

During the late afternoon of 12-2-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. Ronny Caire, 616 Dumaine St., New Orleans, where he resides and where he also operates an advertising agency. Mr. Caire stated that he seemed to recall Oswald applying for a job with his agency while he had offices at 704-5 Cigali Bldg., corner Camp and Canal Sts., New Orleans. He said this was several months ago and about the time Oswald had a radio debate over Radio Station WDSU, New Orleans, in August, 1963. He said this was the only time

he had seen Oswald and for that reason he could not be positive in identifying Oswald's photograph that he was the man he had in mind. Mr. Caire could furnish no information re Oswald using 544 Camp Street as an address.

During the interview with Mr. Ronny Caire, he stated that Sergio Arcacha may be wanted on a Dyer Act charge; that Arcacha allegedly drove a car from New Orleans to Miami.

On 12-5-63 reporting agent interviewed Mr. Robert E. Develle, Director of Finance, City of New Orleans, also Mr. Joseph Orlesh, Secretary to the Director of Finance, to determine whether the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" had applied for a permit from the City of New Orleans to operate in New Orleans. It was found that this organization was not of record with the Director of Finance.

On 12-6-63 SAIC Rice inquired of FBI Special Agent Paul Alker, New Orleans, as to the results of any investigation which they may have conducted in an attempt to connect Lee Harvey Oswald and the "FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE" with the address 544 Camp Street, New Orleans. SA Alker advised that they had checked this angle out thoroughly but with negative results.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The overall investigation with reference to Lee Harvey Oswald is being continued at New Orleans and in the event any information is developed which would place him at 544 Camp St., New Orleans, it will be the subject of another report.

AFG/jl